



November 2001

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## AFRL awards contract for photonic crystal research

*by Fran Crumb, Information Directorate*

ROME, N.Y. — The Air Force Research Laboratory has awarded a \$3,049,514 contract to VLOC Inc. of New Port Richey, Fla., for research involving advanced crystalline structures for optical communications.

The one-year agreement, “Photonic Component Development,” also includes work at the parent company of VLOC, II-VI Corporation, in Saxony, Pa., as well as a subcontract with Aculite Corporation, a small business in Bothell Washington,

and an additional task which is being conducted at Washington State University at Pullman.

“Our goal is to demonstrate the use of vanadate-based crystalline structures for laser applications,” said Norman P. Bernstein, program manager in AFRL’s Sensors Directorate at the Rome Research Site. “The effort will demonstrate new components with applications in photonic communication systems.”  
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